

# **New Experimental Wind Tunnel Research Capabilities at UAH for Investigation of Shock-Wave-Boundary-Layer-Interactions**

**Phil Ligrani and Kader Frendi**  
**Propulsion Research Center**

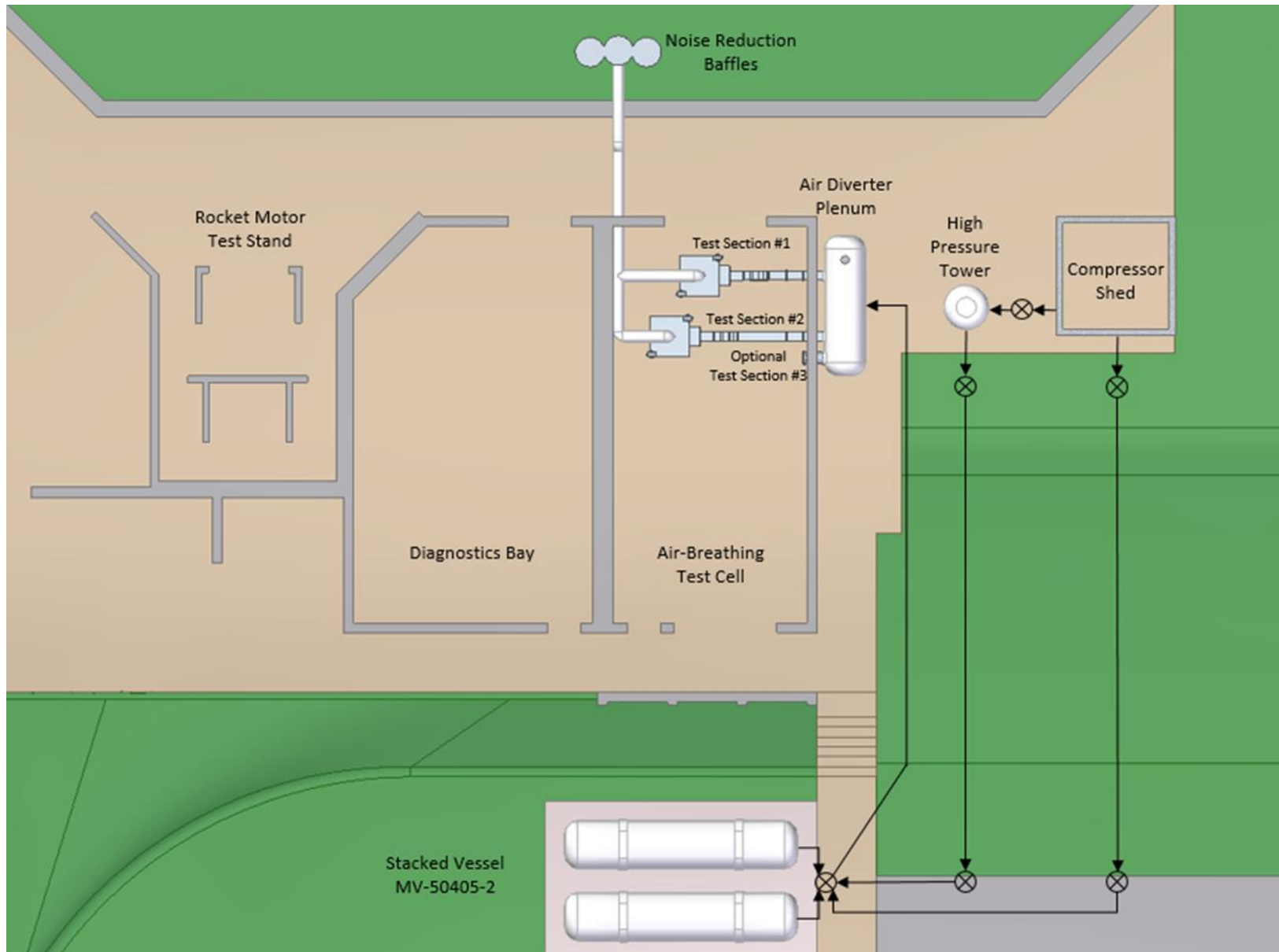


***9th Annual Shock Wave/Boundary Layer Interaction (SWBLI)  
Technical Interchange Meeting  
May 24-25, 2016, Cleveland Ohio***

**JOINT Numerical and Experimental EFFORTS  
AND COOPERATION ARE VERY IMPORTANT**  
**Propulsion Research Center**

**Increased collaboration between  
computational and experimental work to  
improve our understanding and insight into  
FLOW PHYSICS and CONTROL.**

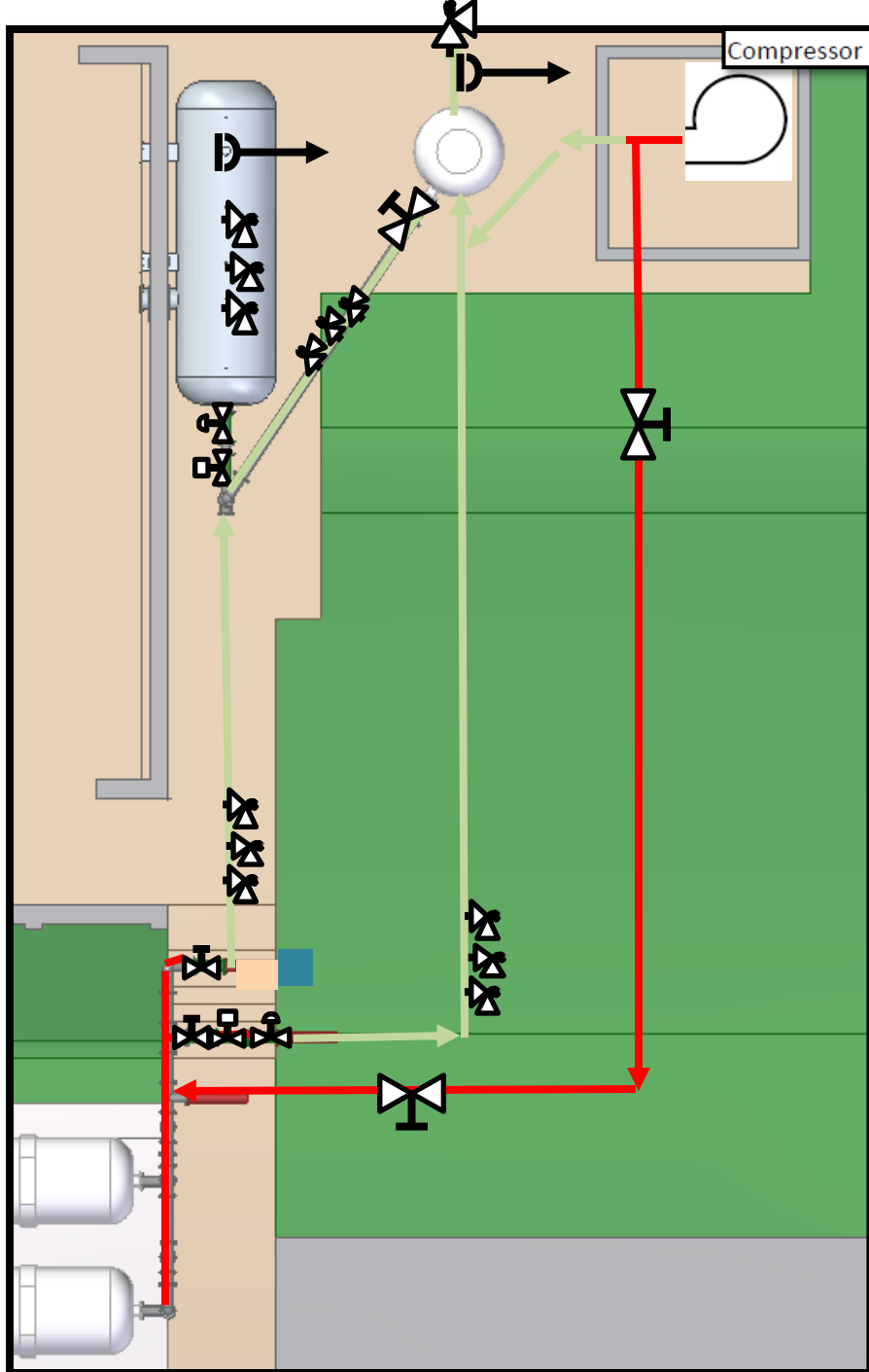
# Overall SS/TS/WT Arrangement



# SS/TS/WT Pipe Connections

2500 psi line 3"

300 psi  
line 3" & line 6"



Manual Gate Valve

Pneumatic Valve

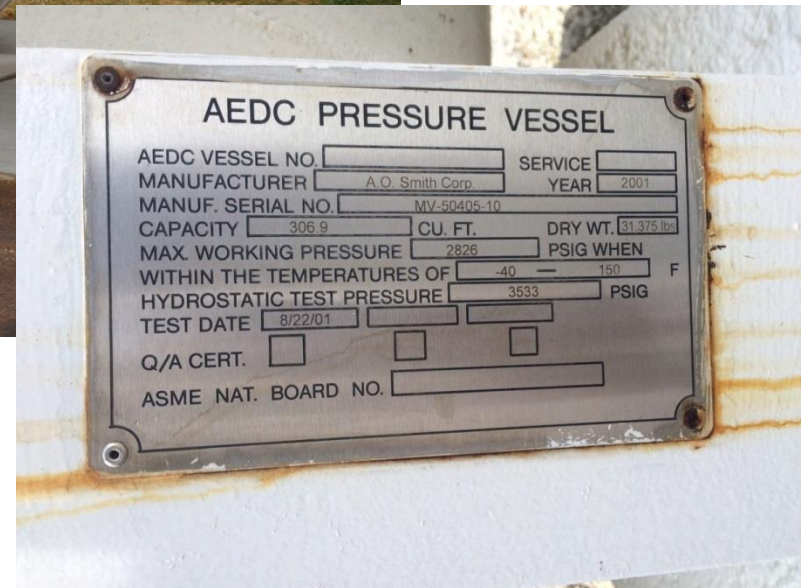
PR Control Valve

Undeclared Valve

Burst Disk

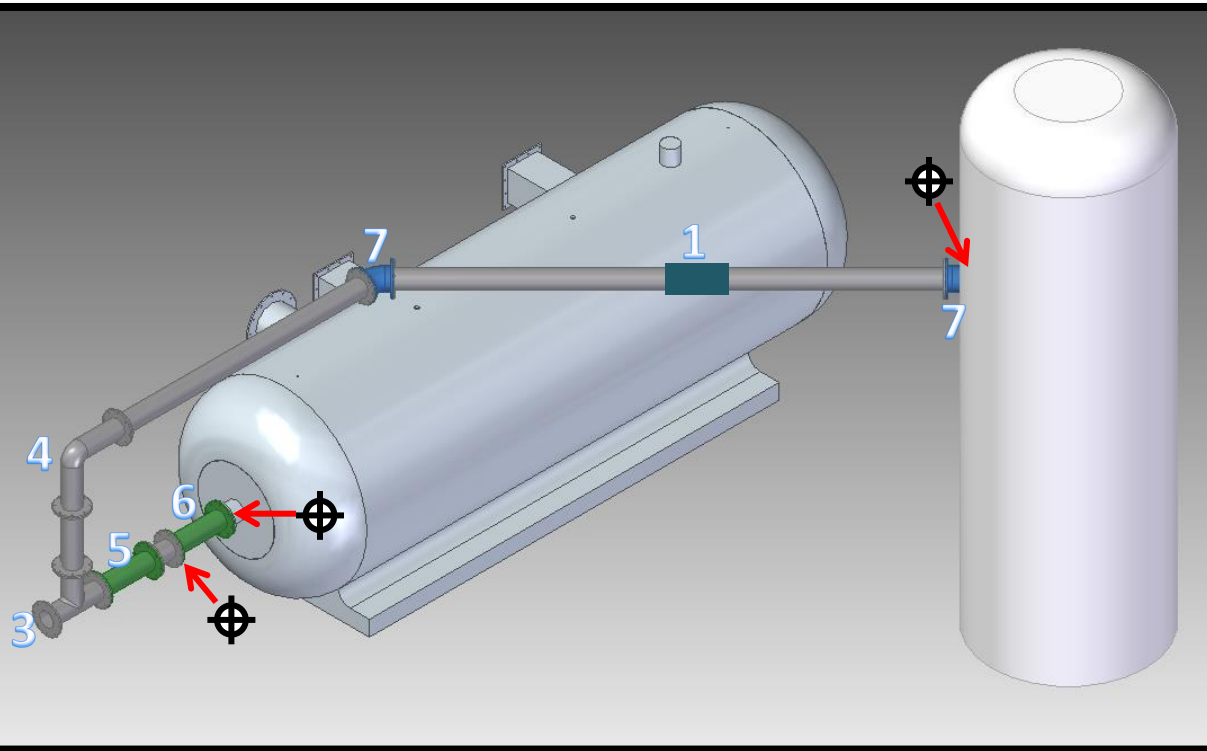
Relief Valve

# DONATED HIGH PRESSURE AIR STORAGE TANKS: A NEW ADDITION TO THE UAH - PRC



# Valve Identification

## Key:



1: 6" 300psi Manual Gate Valves

3: 6" LP Tee with CAPPED OPENING

4: 6" 90 Degree Bend

5: 6" 300psi Pneumatic Valve







6: 6" 300 psi PR Control Valve

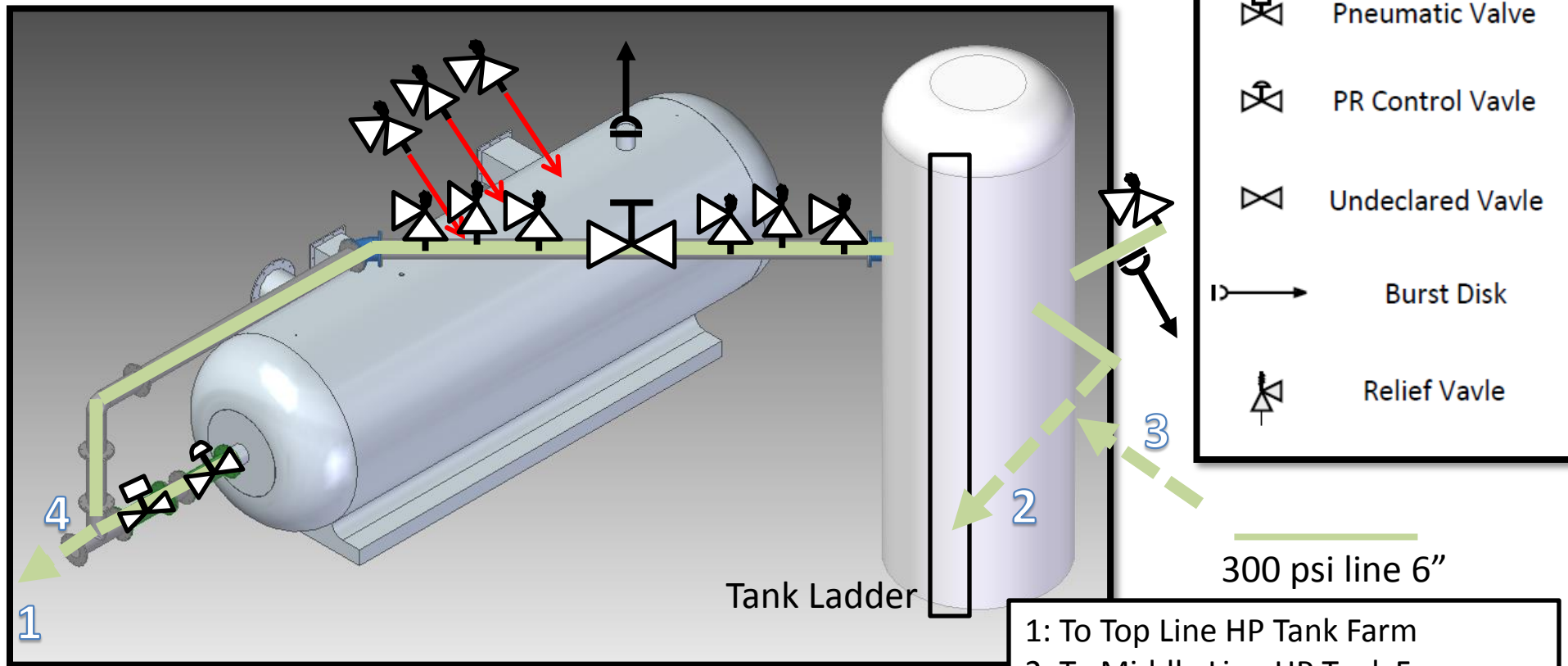
7: 6" 45 Degree Bend

⊕ : Pressure tap - "T" Connection  
for Both Analog and Digital  
Pressure Gauges.

# Valve Identification

## Key:

-  Manual Gate Valve
-  Pneumatic Valve
-  PR Control Valve
-  Undeclared Valve
-  Burst Disk
-  Relief Valve



- 1: To Top Line HP Tank Farm
- 2: To Middle Line HP Tank Farm
- 3: From Compressor Shed
- 4: 6" LP Tee with CAPPED OPENING

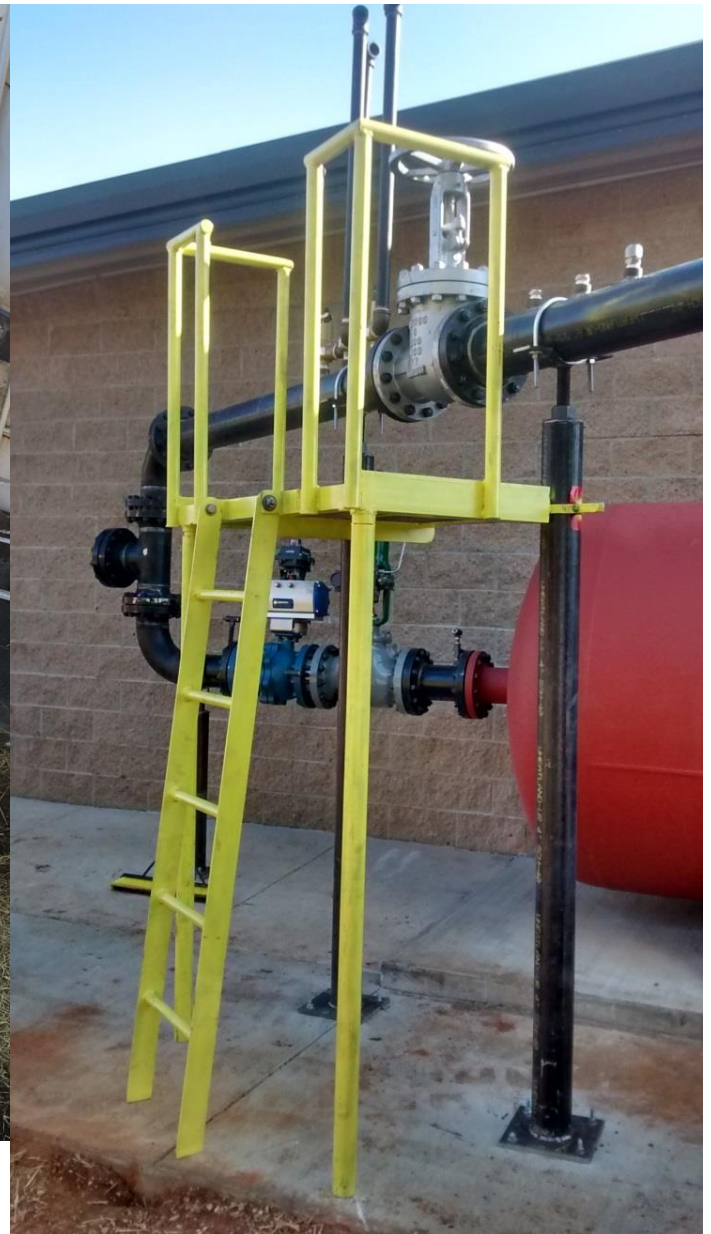


# SuperSonic/TransSonic/WindTunnel

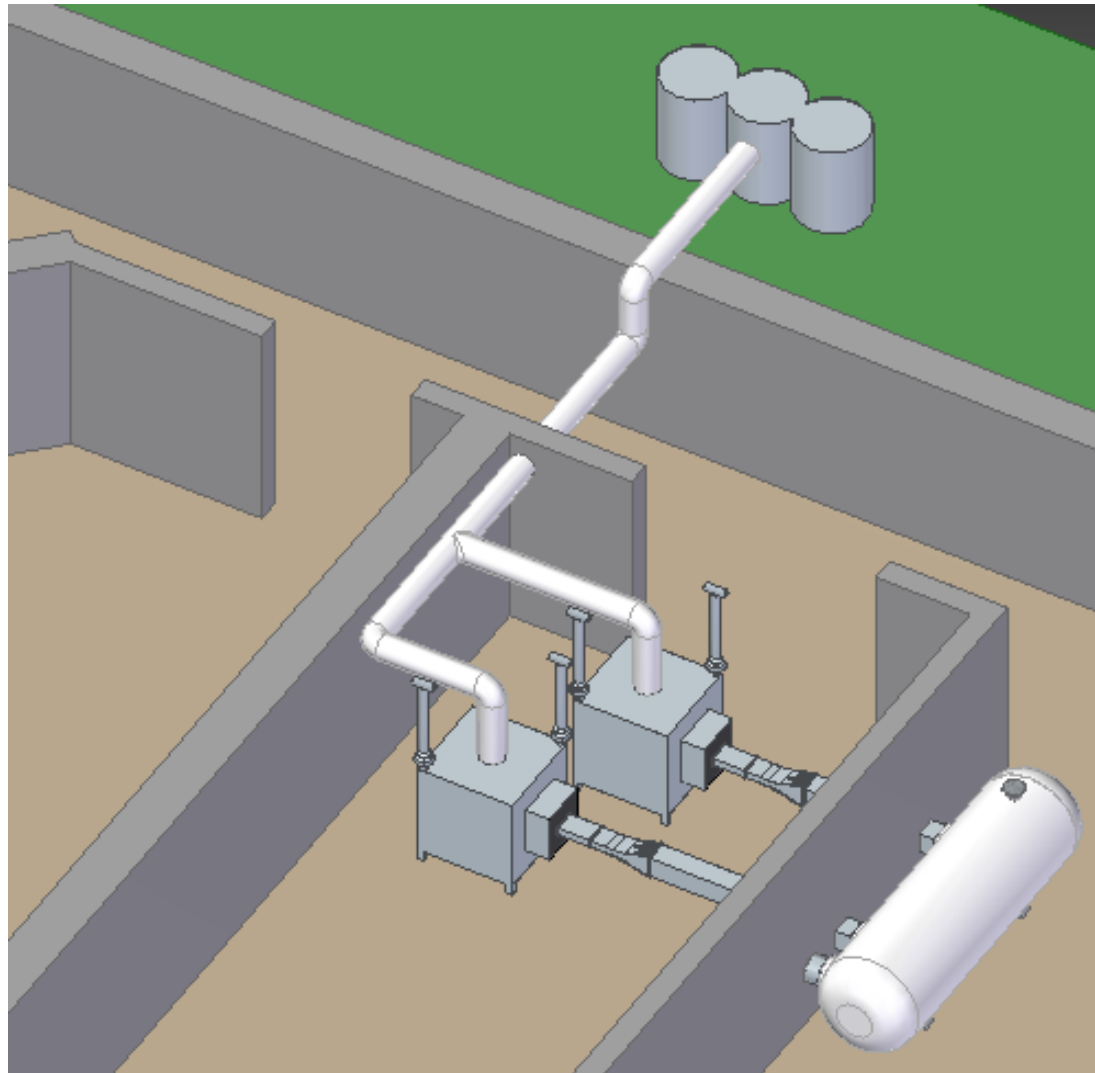




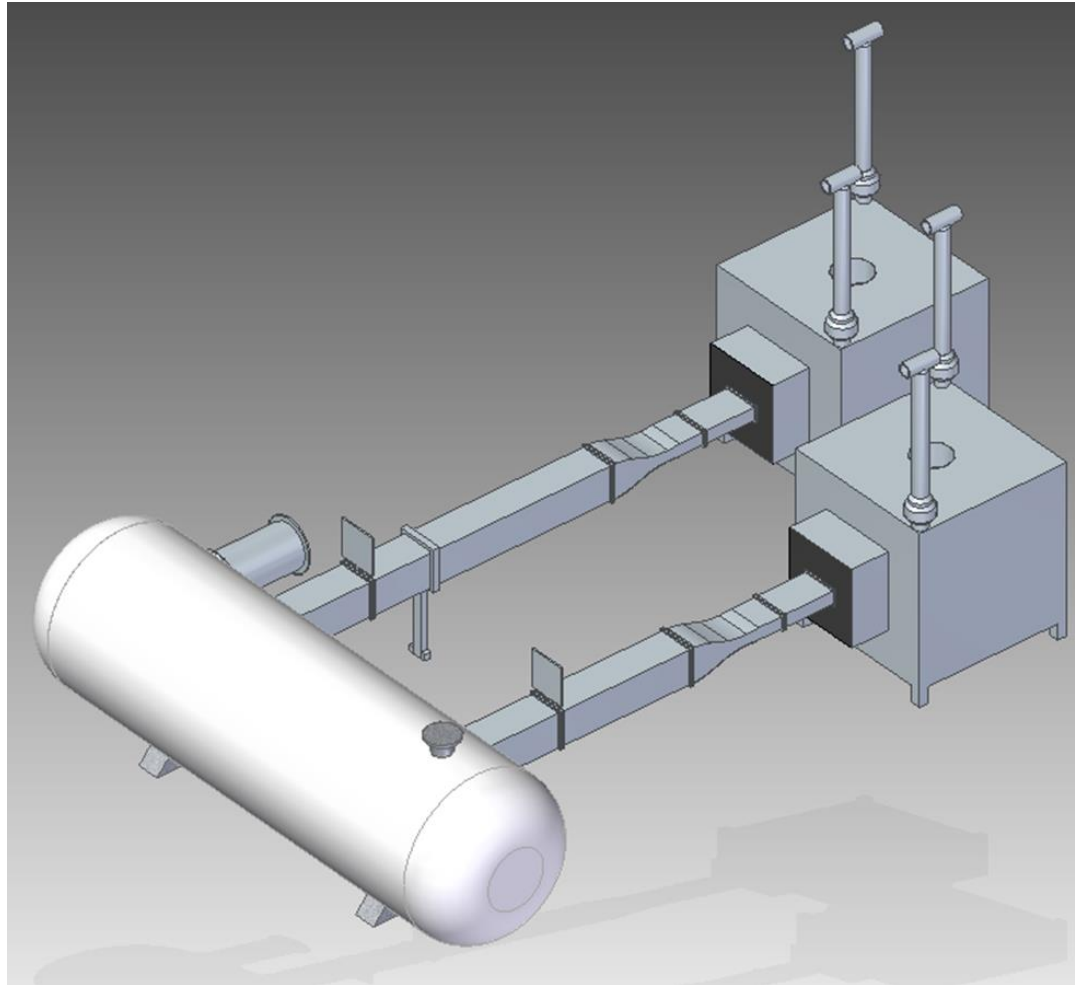
# SuperSonic/TransSonic/WindTunnel



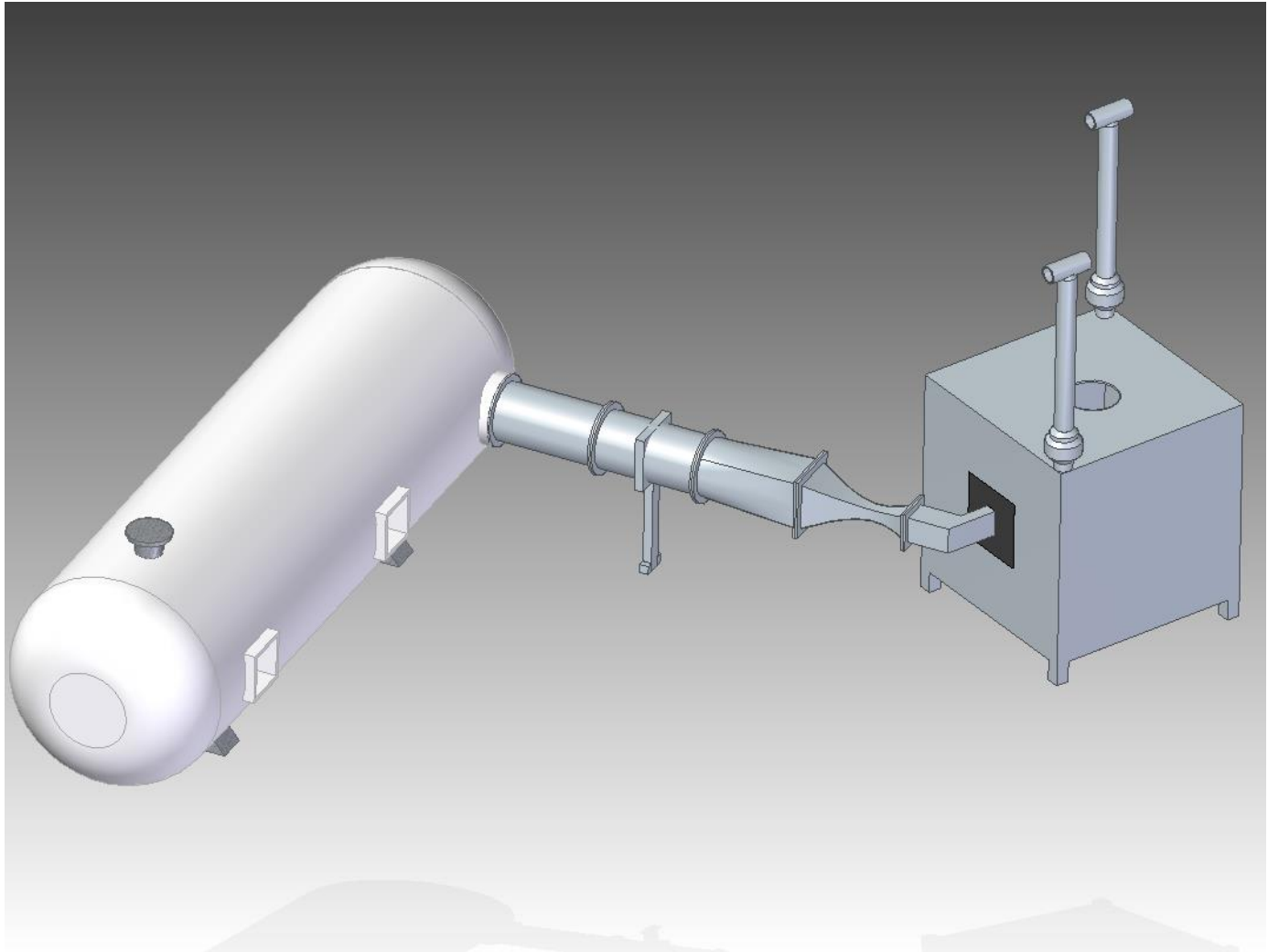
# Air-Breathing Test Cell/ Test Sections



# Test Sections

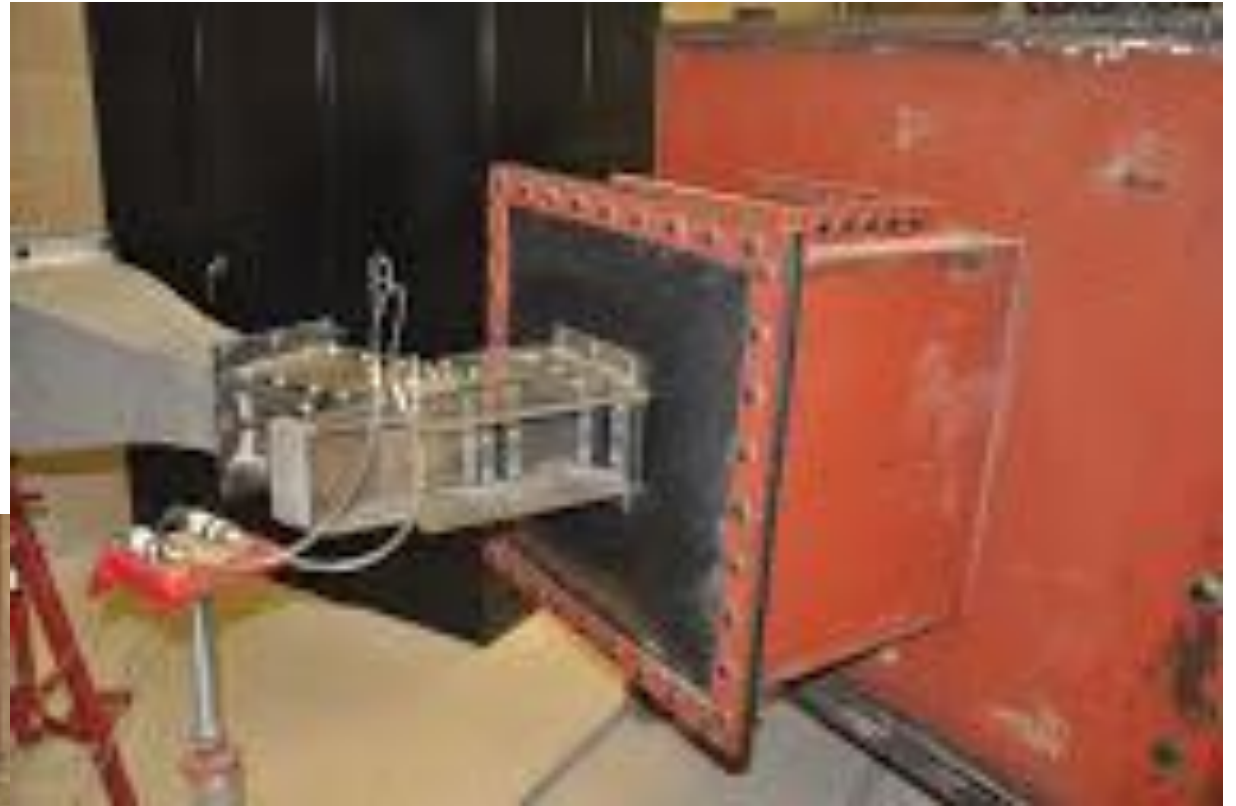


# Test Section #3



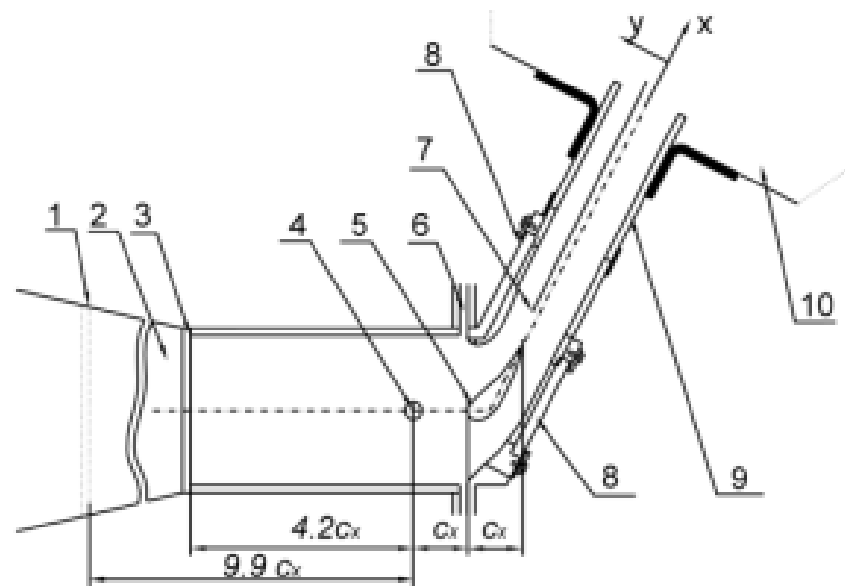


# Test Section # 3

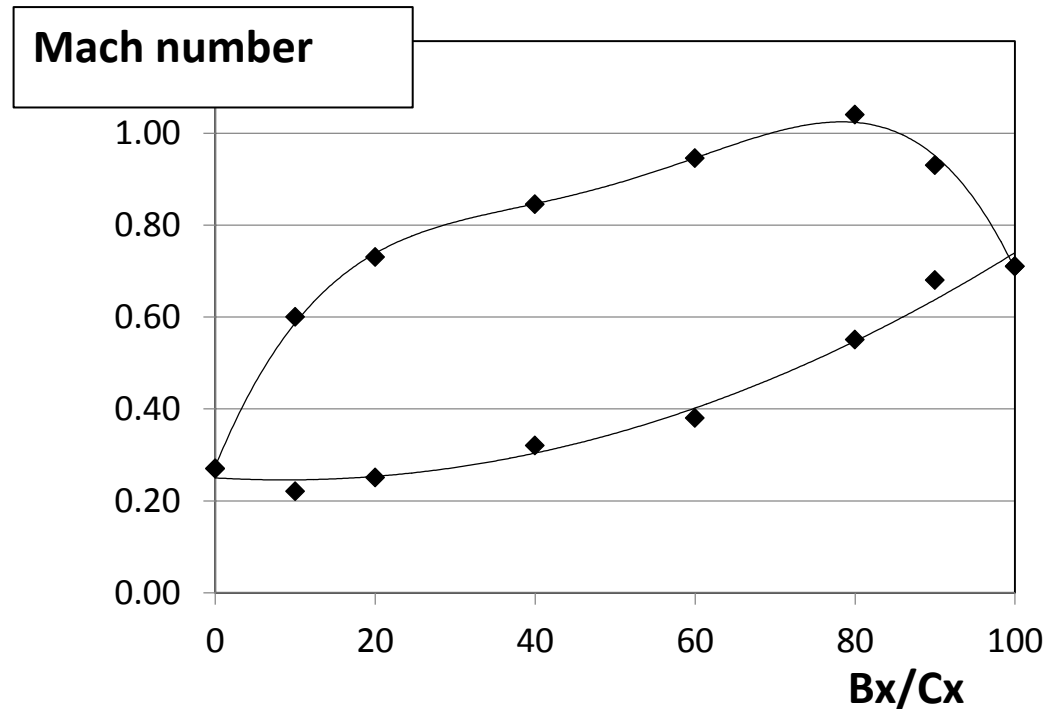




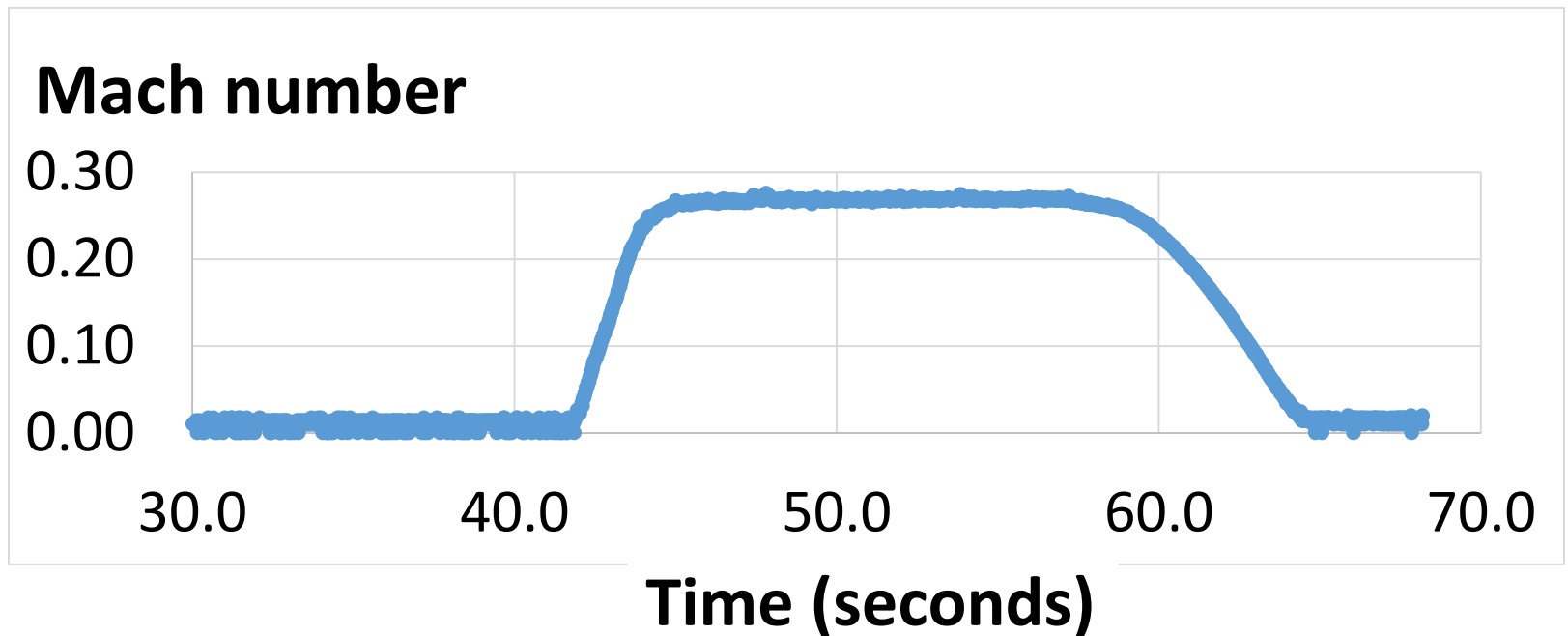
# Schematic diagram of the test section, and Mach number distributions along the test cambered vane.



1. Bar Grid Position
2. Nozzle
3. Fine Mesh Grid Position
4. Inlet Pressure Probe and Thermocouple
5. Test Blade
6. Bleeding System
7. Exit Pressure Probe and Thermocouple
8. Zinc-Selenide Window
9. Tailboard
10. Exit Plenum

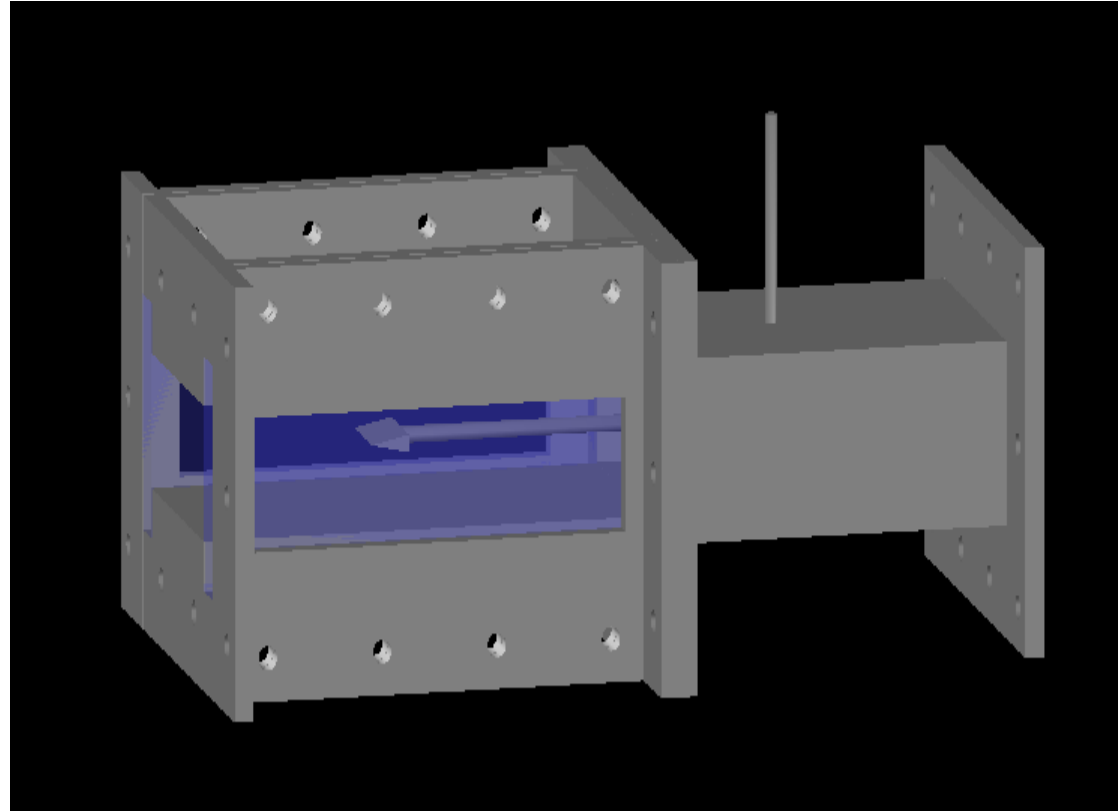


# Mach number variation with time – turbine vane cascade inlet May 5, 2016.

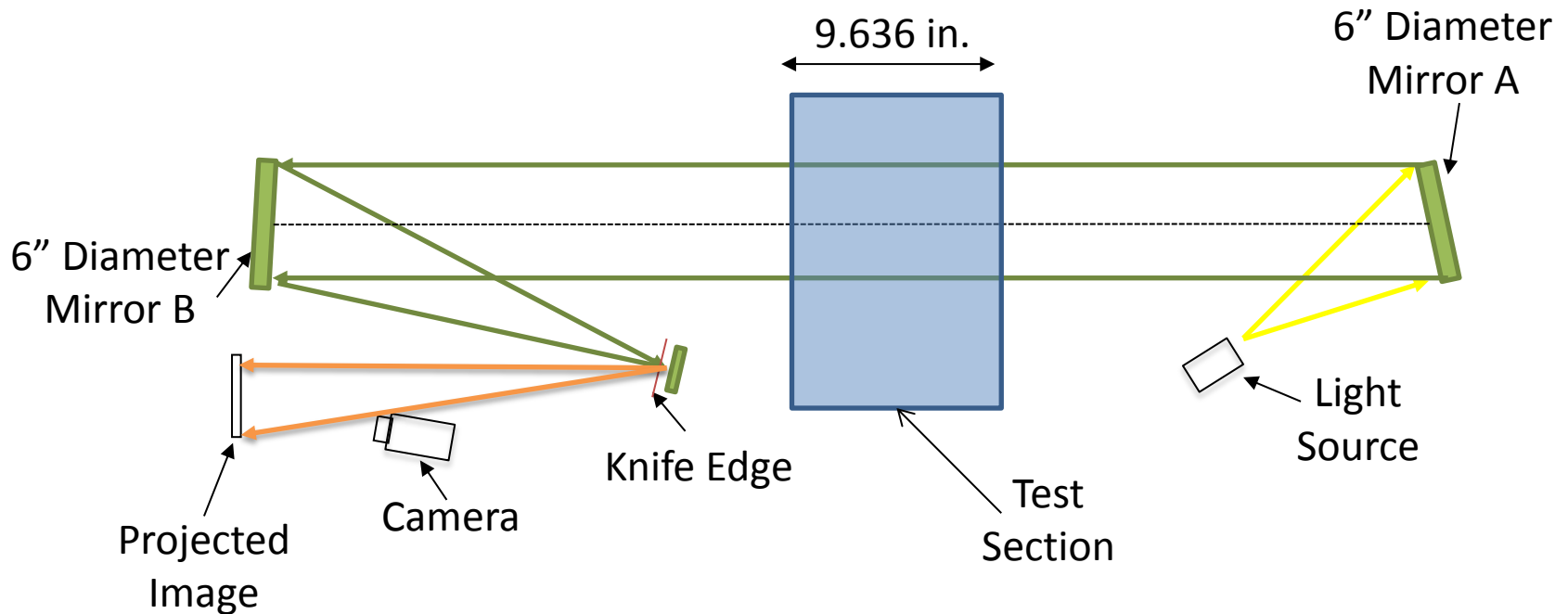


# Class Instruction Test Section

- Test Section Inner Dimensions: 2.7 inches by 6 inches
- Wall Thickness: 0.5 inches
- Inner Surface Polished
- Corners: Sharp or very small radius
- Side Walls: clear acrylic or polycarbonate

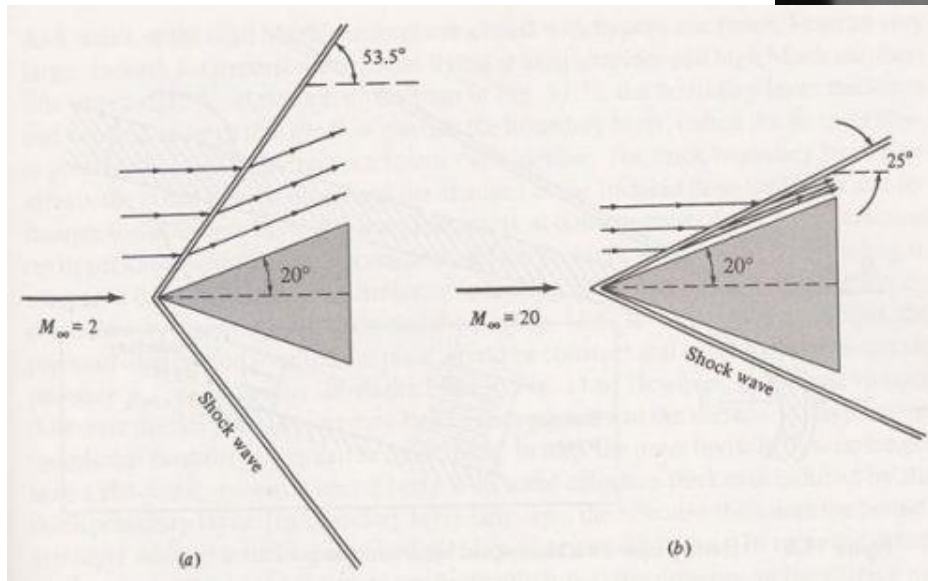


# Instrumentation – Schlieren flow visualization system



# Class Instruction Test Section

- Wedge shock wave instructional demonstrations





# Research Test Section – SWBLI Investigations

Duct with bleed option

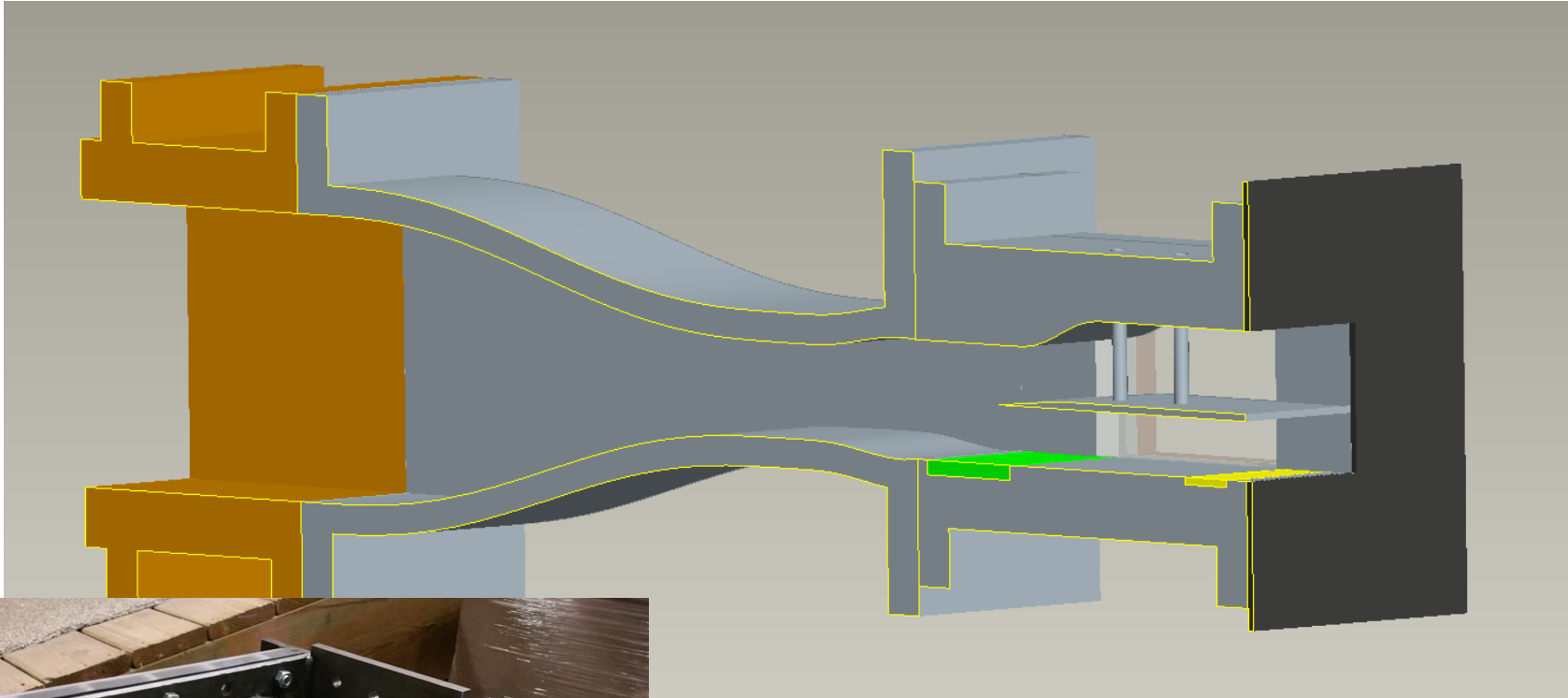
Optional bleed on every wall

2D nozzle

Large aspect ratio

Test section

Large aspect ratio

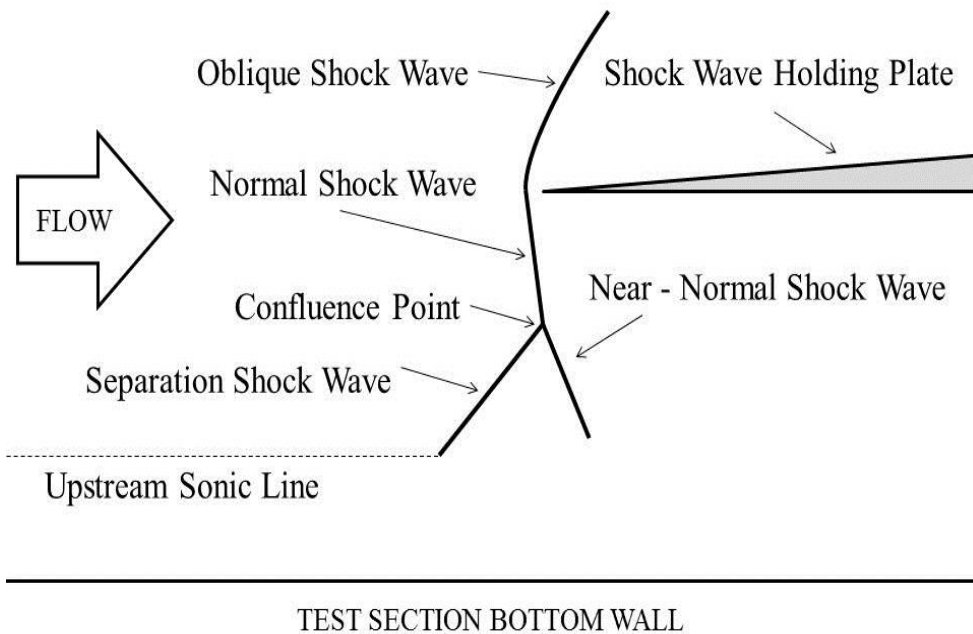


**Centerline view of the test section.**

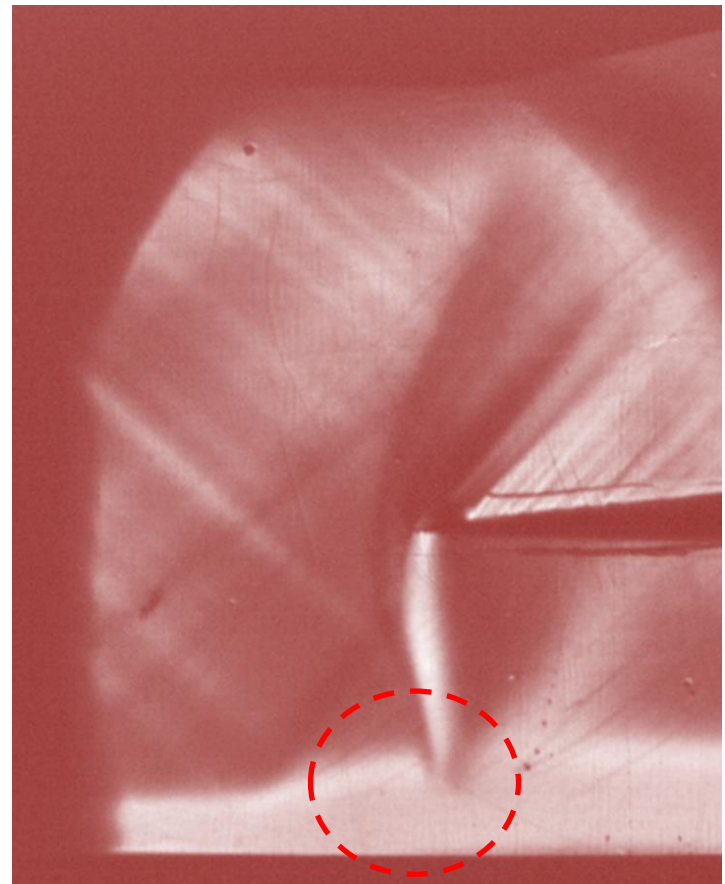


# SWBLI Result

- Adjust choking flap to choke bottom channel flow
- Modified oblique shock wave to normal shock wave



$$M_{\infty}=1.62$$



# SuperSonic/TransSonic/WindTunnel

Increased capabilities relative to many other facilities.

- UAH air storage capacity – 50 cubic meters.
- Pressure source capacity – 300 psi and 2500 psi.
- Test section mass flow rates up to 12-16 kg/sec.
- Test section inlet Mach numbers of 0.1 to 3.0.
- Test section inlet Mach numbers of 3.0 to 6.0.
- Capabilities to include combustion and heat transfer.
- Three different blow-down test operating modes with both High Pressure (2500 psi) and Intermediate Pressure (300 psi) Air Storage....flexible capabilities....

# SuperSonic/TransSonic/WindTunnel

## LAB CAPABILITIES

### Personnel – UAH Propulsion Research Center

- PHIL LIGRANI – Experimental supersonic flow researcher
- KADER FRENDI – Numerical supersonic flow researcher
  
- BOB FREDERICK – Propulsion Research Center - Director
- TONY HALL – Full-time Laboratory Engineer
- DAVID LINEBERRY - Full-time Laboratory Manager and Laboratory Safety Officer
  
- Excellent students and faculty colleagues
- Existing and well established ITAR, EXPORT CONTROL, and PROPRIETARY RESEARCH practices, capabilities, and facilities
  
- RAY VAUGHN – Vice President for Research – excellent SRO - Sponsored Research Office

# SuperSonic/TransSonic/WindTunnel

## LAB CAPABILITIES

### Measurement Capabilities, Probes, Instrumentation

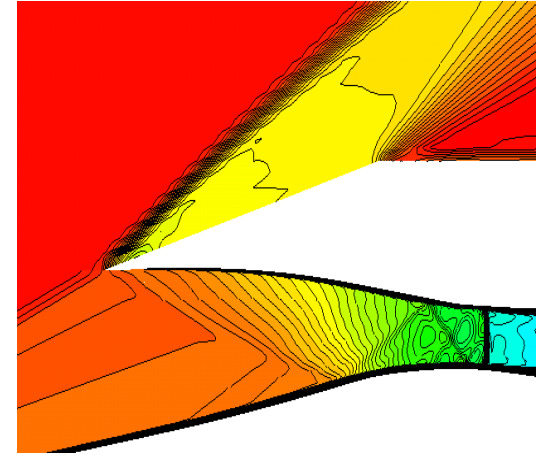
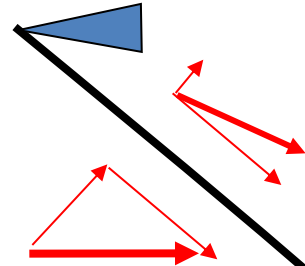
- Schlieren flow visualization system
- PIV – Particle Image Visualization – system
- Pressure instrumentation – Validyne pressure transducers, diaphragms, and carrier demodulators, including high pressure transducer calibration system
- Stagnation pressure probes, surface static pressure tappings
- Temperature instrumentation – Omega thermocouples and measurement system, including thermocouple calibration bath and resistance thermometer as temperature standard
- Computers and DAS – Data Acquisition System – including National Instruments data acquisition / multiplexer (analog-to-digital conversion) cards
- Surface oil flow visualization capability
- CCD cameras for time-resolved data
- FLIR infrared camera with 60 hertz time-resolved acquisition capability



# APPLICATIONS - What happens when a shock wave strikes a boundary layer?



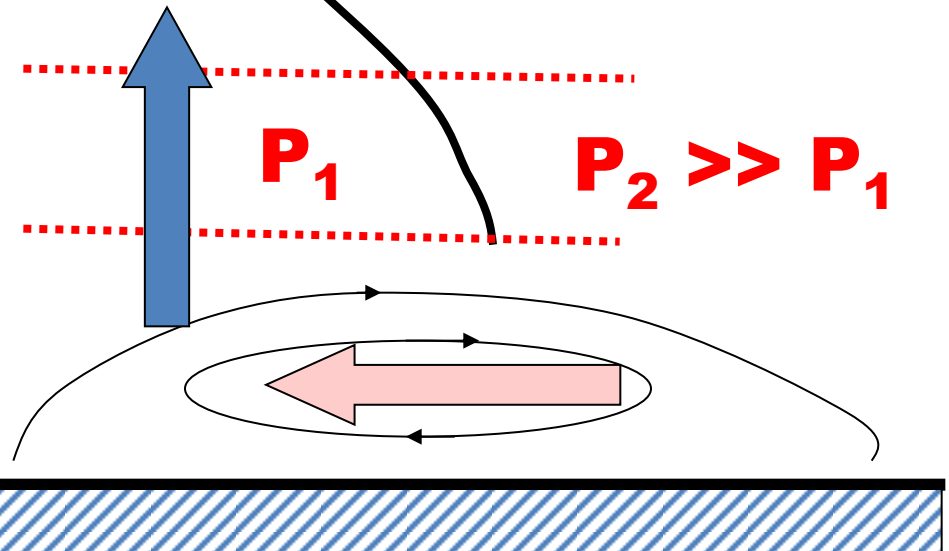
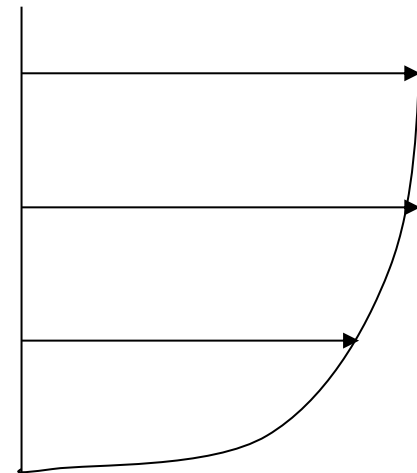
$M > 1$



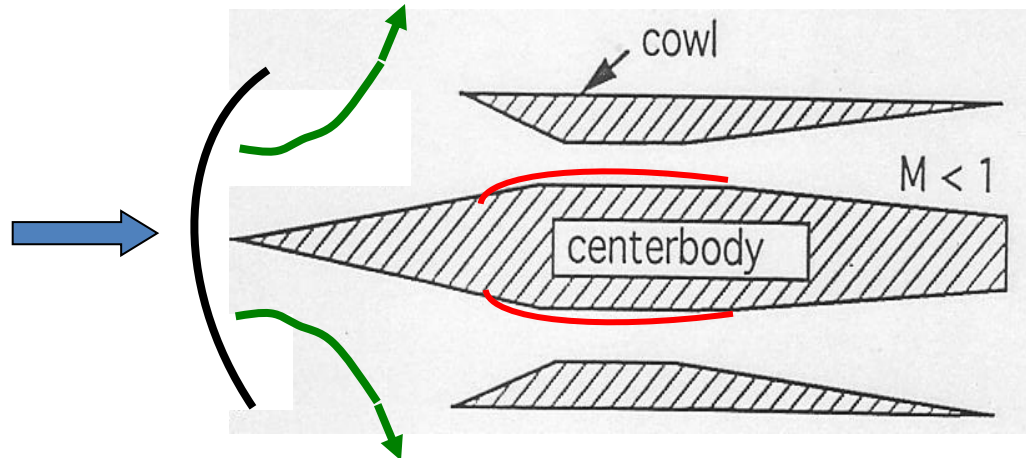
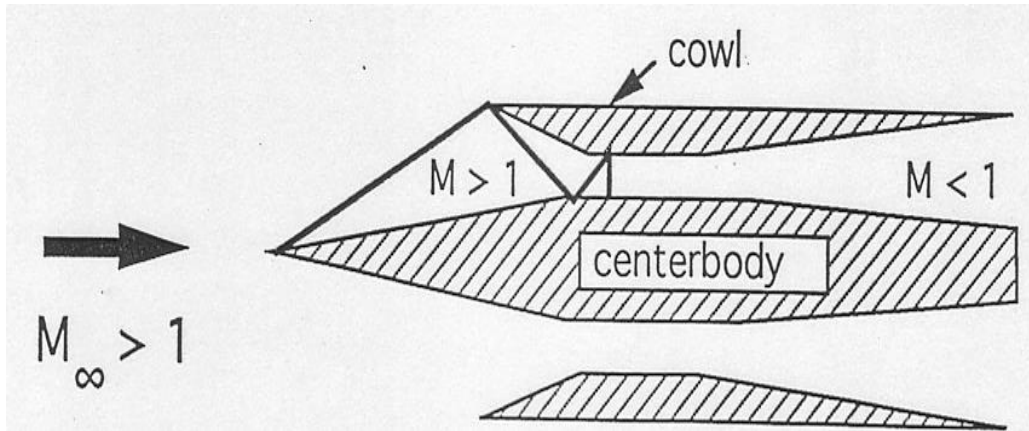
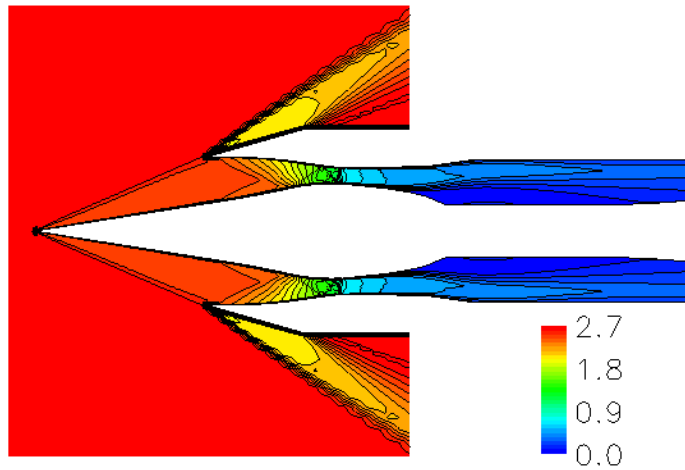
$\delta$

$M = 1$

$M < 1$



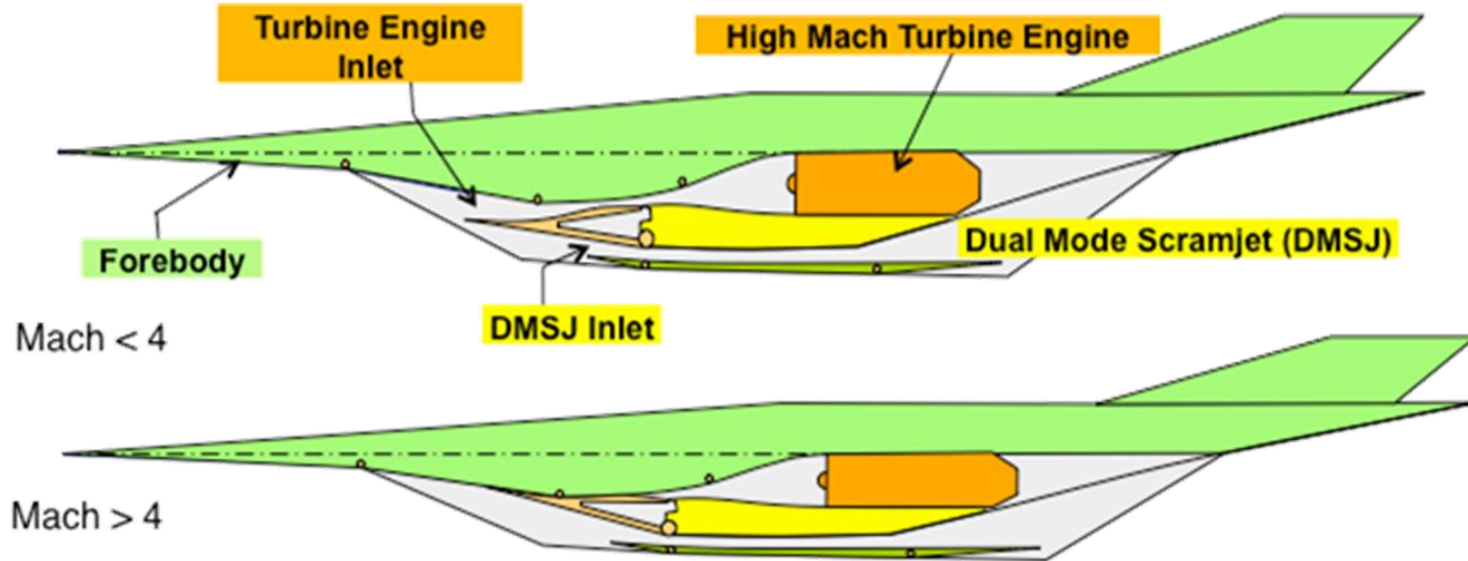
# Consequences of shock-induced separation?



Flow separation changes effective geometry.

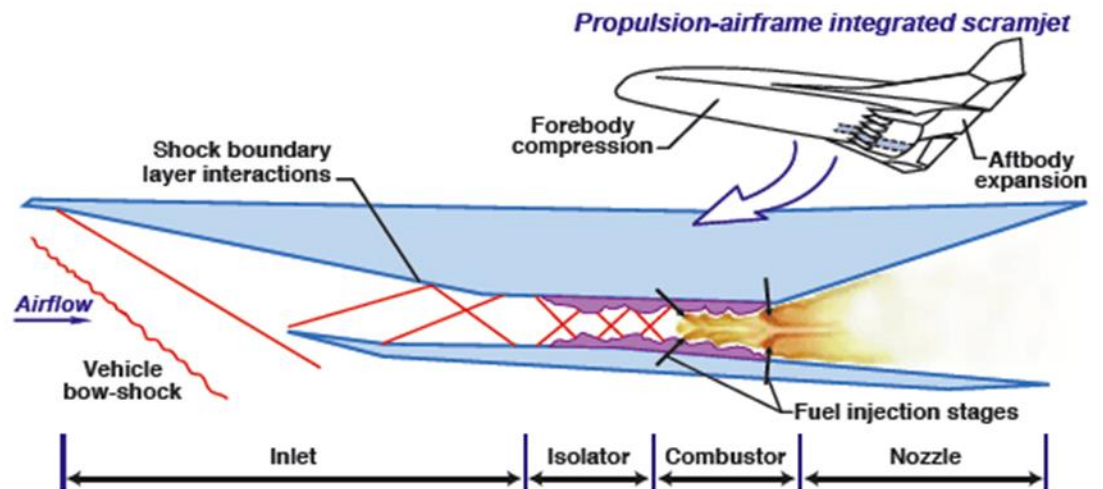
Shock pops out & **engine “unstarts”!**

# APPLICATIONS



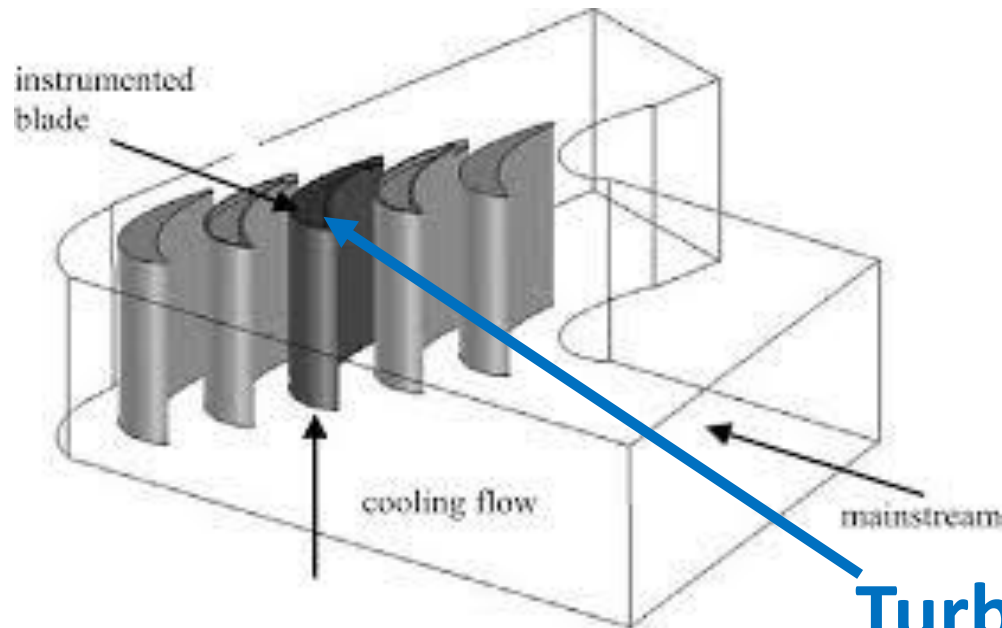
## ● Hybrid space vehicle

## ● Scramjets



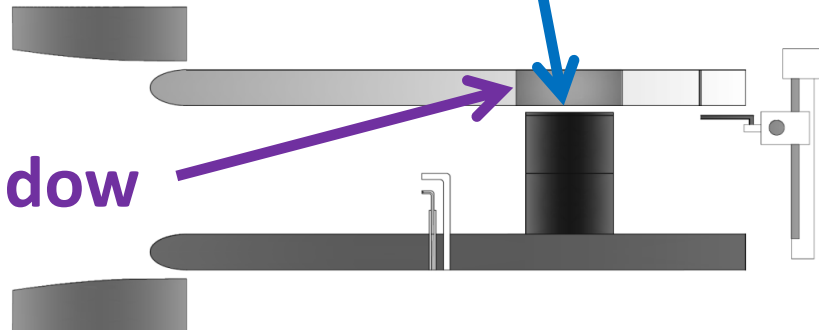
# APPLICATIONS.....

## Transonic Turbomachinery CASCADES

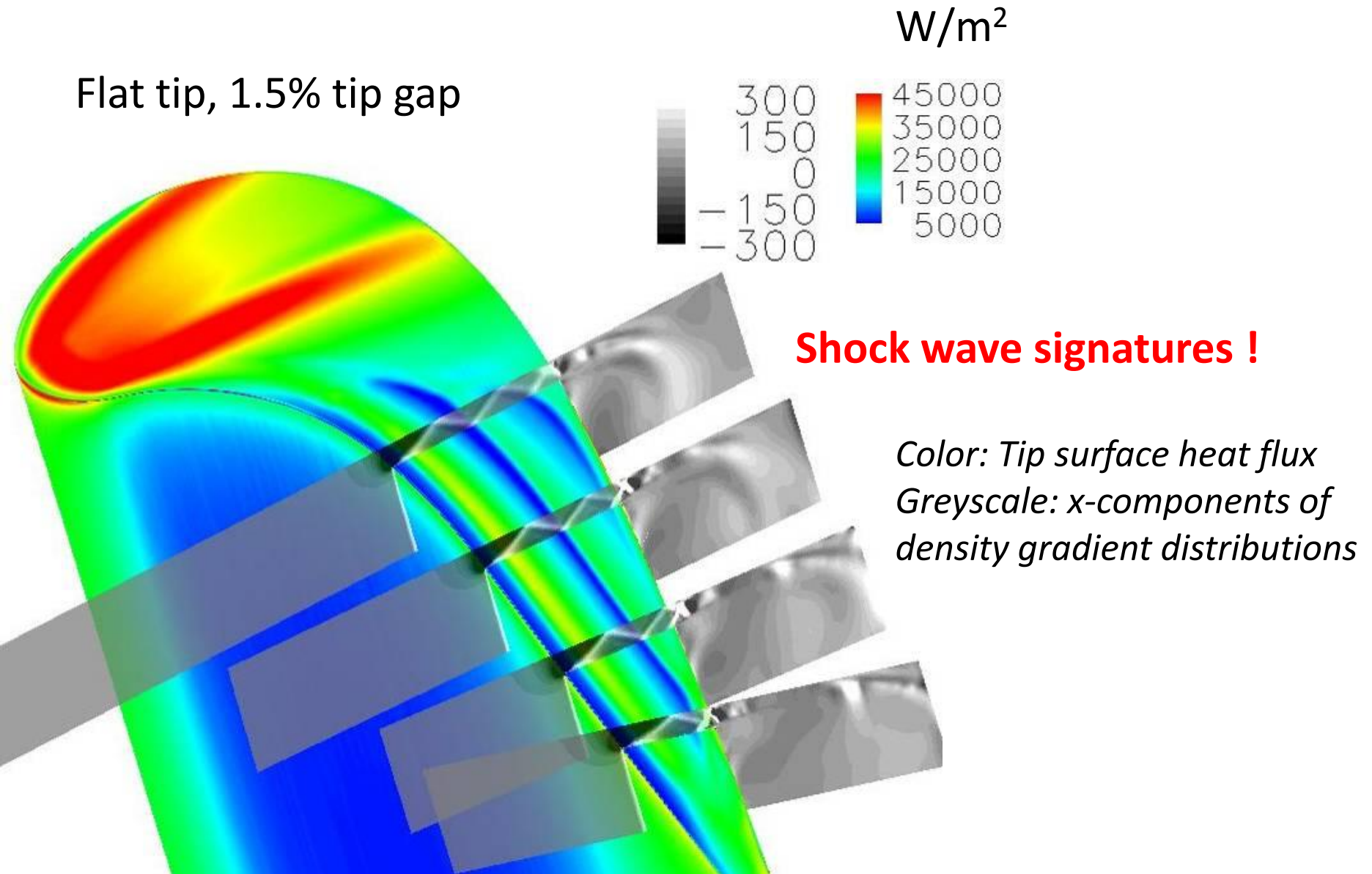


**Turbine blade tip**

**Optical access window**



# SHOCK WAVE EFFECTS: A virtual Schlieren visualization







**\$2 MILLION - FACILITY**  
**SS/TS/WT**  
**SuperSonic/TransSonic/WindTunnel**

# SuperSonic/TransSonic/WindTunnel

## SS/TS/WT

### THANK YOU:

Alabama Innovation Fund

UAH – Office of the VPRED

UAH – Other sources of funding

AEDC – Arnold Engineering Development

Center – Arnold Air Force Base –

Mr. Elmer Standridge

UAH PRC MAE **SS/TS/WT** Facility  
**SuperSonic/TransSonic/WindTunnel**

University of Alabama in Huntsville

**THE END**